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HISTORY

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MORAVIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lititz, Pennsylvania

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MORAVIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lilitz, Pennsylvania

By MARY AUGUSTA HUEBENER



Published in Connection with the

Centennial Celebration

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Allen County Public Library



THE HISTORY

ORGANIZATION When Robert Raikes began the Sunday School movement in England in 1781, the "Choir System" instituted in the Renewed Moravian Church by Count Zinzendorf in 1727, was already forty-four years old.

This "Choir System" was practically the equivalent of a departmentalized Sunday School, for Moravian congregations were divided into groups according to age and marital status, and the young people and children, especially, were given weekly, or even daily, systematic Bible instruction. This instruction was usually given to the boys and girls during their school hours, by the resident minister, a practice which is considered quite modern today in the "Released Time" movement in the Public Schools. The problem, of course, was much simpler in the early days in Lititz and other Moravian "Church Settlements," before the days of the free public schools, when the secular as well as the religious instruction of youth was carried on in schools established by the Church. The older boys and girls and the young men and women, at first, even had their separate living quarters in the "Brethren's" and the "Sisters'" Houses, built in 1761 and 1760, respectively, where they were under constant strict supervision.

Before the middle of the 19th Century, however, the old "Settlement" idea was beginning to be looked upon with disfavor by many of the residents of Lititz, for the ideas of expanding American life inevitably found their way into the quiet village. The Brethren's House, as an institution, had been discontinued; and only a few of the older Sisters still lived in the Sisters' House, which had been turned into a girls' school for outsiders as well as children of the town. The boys who attended John Beck's famous school, The Lititz Academy, were being boarded in nearly every house in Lititz.

Although the "Lease System" was still in force, by which all town lots were owned by the Church and rented to members, who built their homes upon them, a few non-Moravians had been admitted into the town and allowed to live in rented houses. Also in the surrounding country there were families of other faiths, whose children were receiving no religious teaching other than what might be given them in their homes.

The pastor, Bishop Peter Wolle, and some of the members of the Lititz congregation, felt that, under the conditions then existing, the Choir System alone was not fully meeting the needs of the young people.

A Sunday School had been opened in Lancaster in 1832, and one in Ephrata in 1840, and had done much good work. A similar venture in Lititz might be the solution to their problem. Accordingly,

in the personal diary of Bishop Wolle, under date of Monday, November 17, 1845, appears this entry:

"In Bible Instruction of the boys, I spoke to them of the prodigal son, which parable came just in order of my scripture narratives, and then talked about the revival among the children in Nisky (Silesia—The revival took place in a Moravian school there in 1841 and 1842); they were quite serious; I finally asked them whether they would like to have a Sunday School, as children in so many other places had, to which they answered in the affirmative."

The entry continues, in explanation:

"This subject has been under consideration with myself and some others, and I trust we shall be able to accomplish something for the spiritual benefit of the youth of this place."

Probably the principal one of the "others" whom Bishop Wolle refers to in this entry, was his son, Nathaniel S. Wolle, who on August 25, of that year (1845), had purchased the Congregation store in this place; and in September, at the age of 23, had come to make his home in Lititz, from Nazareth, where he had just completed his apprenticeship as a merchant.

No further mention is made of the Sunday School in the diary until Monday, January 18, 1846, less than a week before the first session was held, when the following entry appears:

"In the evening five of the teachers in the (Girls') Boarding School met myself, wife and Nath'l. in my room to consult together about the formation of a Sunday School for the children of our town and vicinity. It was resolved that N. should go around to see the parents and ascertain how many boys would be sent—the sisters the same as it regards the girls. My wife was commissioned to engage 5 or 6 female teachers in town. Nath. promised to look out for male teachers. Next Friday report is to be made."

No time was lost for the next day he states:

"The business of enrolling scholars for the S. S. was attended to today and very successfully; also the procuring of teachers."

On Friday a meeting was held "for all future Sunday School teachers — to make necessary arrangements"

On Sunday, January 25, at 1:00 P.M., the Sunday School was commenced with 91 children—51 boys and 40 girls—present, who were called to their respective classes, and to the places assigned for them in the church auditorium, "being so placed as to interrupt one another as little as possible."

The teachers who had been secured were: Male, Nathaniel S.

Wolle, Benjamin Lichtenthaeler, George Barr and William Kreiter; Female, Misses Louisa Pietsch, Aurelia Rauch, Adelaide Greider (later Mrs. A. M. Fett), Elizabeth Daniel, Cecilia Hall and Mrs. Lisetta Wolle, from the School (Only three of these six could serve each Sunday on account of being on duty every alternate day at the school.); and Misses Pauline Tshudy, Caroline and Sophia Kummer, Julian Schoenlein, Cornelia Clewell, and Cornelia Rack, from the town. Two weeks later James Wolle (a brother of Nathaniel) and Caroline Kreiter were added to the teaching force.

The actual first teaching session of the School was on February 1, 1846, when 100 children were present.

Although apparently the time of preparation for opening the School was only a few days, someone — probably Nathaniel Wolle — must have been busy for some time before that, because hymns from the



Church and Parsonage as they appeared when the Sunday School was begun in 1846. Sunday School sessions were held in the Church auditorium until 1884.

"Sunday School Hymn Book" were used at the first session, and the "Library for the School" arrived January 31, the day before the second session.

SUPERINTENDENTS Nathaniel Wolle, who worked with his father, Bishop Peter Wolle, to establish the Sunday School, took over the entire management of the School when his father was called to another pastorate in 1853. He was, therefore, virtually Superintendent from the beginning, and served in this capacity for the first fifty years of the activity of the Sunday School, retiring in 1896.

He was a man well fitted for organizing a new venture of this kind. Not only was he descended from a long line of Moravian ministers, musicians and educators, but he, himself, had an excellent education and considerable musical talent, in addition to vision, Christian character, executive and teaching ability, and loyal devotion to his church and its interests. He was a man of genial disposition; had a strong sense of humor, and the ability to work with people. These qualifications enabled him not only to overcome the prejudice of conservatives against an innovation, in starting the school, but to win the wholehearted support and cooperation of his associates during the many years of his administration.

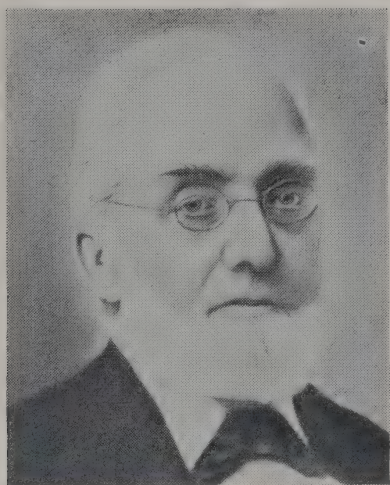
Upon the retirement of Mr. Wolle in 1896, Mr. George L. Hepp became Superintendent. Like Mr. Wolle, Mr. Hepp was filled with Christian devotion to the interests of his church. He was a hard worker, and an excellent organizer, a musician, and a fine teacher.

Whereas Mr. Wolle's ability was greatest in classroom teaching, Mr. Hepp excelled in platform work. He had a vision of what Sunday School pupils ought to know of the Bible—its contents and structure. Before Leadership Training classes became popular, Mr. Hepp was drilling the Moravian Sunday School from the platform on the books of the Bible, its divisions, the principal events of Old and New Testament history, and of the life of Christ, etc., by means of charts and maps which he prepared; and leading the whole school in memorizing portions of Scripture. Before the day of motion pictures, and what is now known as "visual education," Mr. Hepp had "object lessons," by means of which he clinched the lesson of the class rooms.

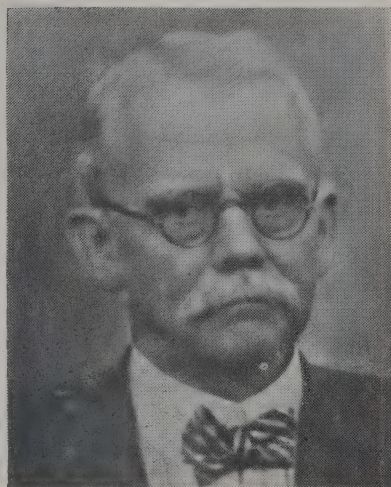
He instituted "Parents Day," when parents and friends were invited to attend the Sunday School session and see the school in its regular working order. This was afterwards combined with the church service, and later evolved into what we now know as "Rally Day."

He also installed a system of badges and class banners for attendance and contributions, and by the close of his administration had built up the school to a total enrollment of 641, including Home Department and Cradle Roll.

1846—SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANTS—1946



Nathaniel Wolle—1846-1896
Francis Christ, Nathan Fry,
Assistants

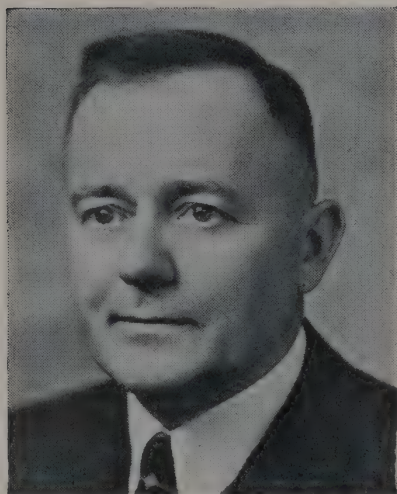


George L. Hepp—1896-1926
John G. Zook, Norman Showers,
Lloyd C. Smith, Assistants



Menno B. Rohrer—1942-1943

1846—SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANTS—1946



Alfred L. Douple—1929-1942
Guy L. Bomberger, William H.
Fasnacht, Assistants



Lloyd C. Smith—1926-1929
Alfred L. Douple, Assistant
Lloyd C. Smith—1943

For a number of years, during his superintendency, the school received annual pennants from the State Sunday School Association, designating it a "Front Line" Sunday School, in recognition of its having met certain definite requirements. It was considered a model school, according to the standards of that day, and had many observers and visitors.

Mr. Hepp served as Superintendent for thirty years, until his death in 1926, having given almost half his life to this work. Thus in the first eighty years of its history, the Sunday School had only two Superintendents.

The last twenty years have seen the school develop under the capable superintendency of the Brethren Lloyd Smith, Alfred Douple and Menno Rohrer. Mr. Smith took over the office for a second time upon the departure of Mr. Rohrer for the Army in 1943. All of these brethren, as well as their work, need no introduction to the present generation, as they are still in the active service of the Master.

BUILDING PROGRAM When the Sunday School was organized, back in 1846, and for many years thereafter, the sessions were held in the Church auditorium. But in 1883, the long cherished hope of the Sunday School workers for more adequate quarters was realized. In January of that year the Church Council decided to build a Sunday School Chapel.



Old "Brethren's House" erected 1761. Remodeled and brick auditorium added in 1884, for use as a Sunday School Chapel.

The old "Brethren's House," just west of the Church, after it had ceased to serve its original purpose, as the character of the town changed, and the "Settlement" idea was discarded, had been used as one of the buildings of John Beck's school, and then as the home of Kickert and Hepp's Academy. Since 1881, however, this venerable stone edifice had been standing vacant.

So Council accepted plans to make certain necessary alterations in this building, and erect a large brick addition adjoining it to the rear; thus providing an auditorium and certain class rooms for the Sunday School.

Ground was broken on March 27, and the cornerstone laid four months later. The new Sunday School Chapel, including the remodeled Brethren's House, was dedicated January 6, 1884.

As time went on, more room was needed, and in 1908, the main room of the chapel was extended to the south, and a wing built at the eastern side for the use of the Primary Department.

In 1920, the basement of the old stone building was remodeled to provide a kitchen and lavatories; and in 1935 the present modern Christian Education Building was completed, by further enlarging the auditorium and adding large three-story wings on both east and west sides at the rear; also by excavating under the auditorium, to provide a large basement under the entire structure. The building now has adequate facilities for all departments, and is well equipped throughout.

MUSIC Just what the "Sunday School Hymn Book" was, which Peter Wolle mentions in his diary in connection with the first session of the School, we do not know, but the late Prof. Abraham R. Beck (father of Dr. Herbert Beck) who was one of the original Sunday School pupils, states that "the first tunes, other than our own, that we had were 'There Is A Happy Land' and 'Oh, That Will Be Joyful'". An early hymn book that was still in use by the Sunday School in the late 1860's was entitled, "Happy Voices." This contained the above hymns, and was probably the first one used.

A number of copies of later Sunday School hymnals are stored in the church garret. An interesting one, published in 1866, is the first edition of the Moravian hymnal entitled "Offices of Worship and Hymns." It is a very small volume, only three by five inches, and contains words only. Later editions of the same collection, but containing many more hymns, and notes, were published in 1872, 1891 and 1908. All of these were used in succession in the Sunday School, in connection with other collections of undenominational Sunday School hymns.

The new "Moravian Youth Hymnal" which combines Chorales and other standard hymns with the best of the popular Sunday School

tunes, is now in use in several departments, and will, undoubtedly, eventually be adopted throughout the School. It is a fine collection.

During the time the Sunday School sessions were held in the Church building, a small melodeon, or reed organ, was used to accompany the singing. This was kept in the "Old Chapel" adjoining the Church on the east, and moved into the auditorium for Sunday School. The pipe organ was used for church services. This melodeon was later replaced by a cabinet organ, which was still used for some years after the Sunday School Chapel was occupied.

A Sunday School orchestra consisting of eight pieces was organized during Nathaniel Wolle's administration, but it was Mr. Hepp who developed the orchestra into a really efficient organization. Before the opening of the school sessions, and on special occasions, it played overtures and marches by some of the best composers, in addition to accompanying the hymns. It became so proficient that for some years it gave annual public concerts from the proceeds of which instruments, music and orchestra equipment were purchased. Mr. Hepp also organized a junior orchestra and instructed a junior trombone choir, where some of our musicians of today learned the rudiments of their art.



Moravian Sunday School Orchestra, 1917. Reading from left to right, Back row: Edward S. Crosland, Jr.; Benjamin F. Lutz; Harry Keppel. Second row: Charles Stengel; Helen Kauffman (Mrs. Howard Richardson); John Lutz; Paul M. Seaber; Lewis B. Sturgis; Louis Huebener; Victor Kauffman; Samuel Rubrecht; George L. Hepp. Front row: Lincoln Conrad; Arthur Evans; Louis Hepp; Galen Shenberger; Viola Leib (Mrs. Kenneth Witmyer); Mrs. E. S. Crosland; Joseph D. Zahm; Thomas Haisch.

For a number of years during his administration, the Easter celebration in the Sunday School was enhanced by the singing of the "Gloria" from Mozart's Twelfth Mass, and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah" by a chorus of fifty voices, including pupils, teachers, and members of the church choir.

During later years the orchestra continued to function under the able leadership of Mr. John Keehn; and, more recently, Mr. B..F. Lutz has organized and led a new junior orchestra.

LIBRARIES The first library was probably housed in the Old Chapel, before the church building was renovated and the vestibule and pulpit recess added in 1857. However, Miss A. Virginia Grosh, a pupil and teacher whose memory goes back to within about thirty years of the establishing of the Sunday School, states that,

"The first library we recall stored its books in the two tall closets back of the doors of the main entrance to the vestibule of the church. The librarian (at the time of which Miss Grosh speaks) was brother Harry Stark, grandfather of Howard Young, and his 'office' consisted of a chair in front of the umbrella rack, near the east door of the church auditorium, which was also the assembly room of the Sunday School. The 'desk' was a rectangular box on the librarian's knees. Here the books were checked by number."

In 1867 a Teachers' and Bible Class Library was added to the Children's Library then in existence. In 1904 these were combined, and the "Post Office system" of handling the books was adopted. This combined library occupied a portion of the room which has now been converted into the church parlor.

With the passage of time, and largely due to the establishment of very good Public School library collections for the various grades, the use of the Sunday School library gradually dwindled, and it was discontinued about 1935. It has been replaced by an adequate reference library for the teachers of the school.

CELEBRATIONS, EXCURSIONS, AND PICNICS Almost from the beginning of the school, annual "celebrations" were held at the Springs in the summer, for pupils, teachers and parents. All met at the church and marched in procession to the Springs. Benches, as well as the little melodeon, had been hauled out earlier in the day; and there were addresses by the pastor; John Beck, the famous Lititz school teacher; and others. The pupils sang hymns which they had rehearsed for several weeks previously, the children gathering in the church for this purpose at stated times on week days. A part of the Sunday School sessions was also de-

voted to practicing the hymns. After the addresses and music, lemonade and cakes were served to all present at the celebration.

This practice of gathering together on the Spring grounds for singing and addresses was carried on for many years after the "celebrations" had become "picnics" at which each family provided its own meal; but the previous rehearsing often became lax or was omitted altogether. In recent years the custom has been revived in endeavoring to gather old and young before the band shell for a devotional period in the early evening on picnic day.

For a few years during the early 1890's the picnics were held at Mt. Gretna and Penryn Park, the round trip being made by train. This was soon discontinued, however, because of the expense for large families, who were sometimes unable to go on that account.

One memorable event is mentioned in the accounts of the early days of the school—an excursion to Bethlehem, which took place on August 22, 1874. The train left Lititz at 6:00 A.M. and returned at 8:00 P.M., also picking up passengers at Lancaster, Manheim, Millway and Ephrata. Two trains were required to carry the nearly 900 people who made the trip. The round trip tickets sold for \$1.20 and the profits amounted to \$263.36, a large part of which was used to purchase new books for the two libraries.

Within the last few years "Winter Picnics" have been instituted which are held in the Sunday School basement. These are in addition to the summer picnics at the Springs. At these Winter Picnics the School furnishes a meal, the expenses of which are met by an offering. Games, quizzes, and other entertainment features, as well as group singing are features of the annual event.

DEPARTMENTALIZATION The first move towards a departmentalized Sunday School was the forming, on May 8, 1859, of an "Infant Class" which met in the "Old Chapel" adjoining the Church. It was taught at first by W. L. Bear, with several lady caretakers of the "infants," and had an average attendance of 47.

Before many years had passed, the then Superintendent, Nathaniel Wolle, himself took over, as teacher of this basic department, which, in too many cases is considered unimportant and placed in inexperienced hands. Brother Wolle, according to the testimony of his pupils, excelled in story telling, which was his teaching method. He made the Bible characters live before the eyes of his young pupils; and he could and did get the children to sing.

Our Sunday School has been fortunate in its choice of teachers and Superintendents of the Infant or Primary Department, as well as of the Beginners' Department at a later date. Nathaniel Wolle was followed in that division of the work by Prof. S. Fred Van Vleck, who for about 15 years was the teacher of the little ones, and also served

the congregation as organist and choir director in the Church. He, too, had the gift of holding the interest and winning the hearts of the children. In 1893 Prof. Van Vleck left for Europe for further musical study, only to return to Lititz a few months later broken in health. He died the following year.

Miss Ella Buch took up the reins of this department laid down by Prof. Van Vleck. She laid the foundation of the Christian lives of many of the adults in our school today, and of many others who are no longer members of the school. "Miss Ella" served faithfully and acceptably for thirty years, until she was forced by physical infirmity to step out of this work which had occupied her whole heart.

She turned the work over to Miss E. Magdalena Bricker, who had been her assistant for many years. Miss Bricker continued as Primary Superintendent until 1935 when the Department moved into its quarters in the new building, and the present workers took over.

The second move towards departmentalizing the school was the organizing in 1860, during the pastorate of Bishop Edmund de Schweinitz, of an Adult Bible Class. This was one year after the forming of the Infant Class. In a short time the Bible Class was divided into two—a Young Men's Bible Class with 16 members, which met on Sunday, and a Young Women's Bible Class of 35 members which met on a week day evening.

In 1867 these classes were again united to form the Pastor's Bible Class, Rev. E. T. Kluge being its first teacher. This arrangement continued for sixty-seven years, each pastor of the congregation, in turn, becoming its teacher. For a time the combined class grew to such proportions that the sessions were held in the "Lyceum Building" which stood on the site of the present Moravian Home on Church Ave.

In 1935, the class was again divided, and today, by the combining of several men's and women's classes, and the accession of a number of new-comers to the community, we have two strong classes—a Men's and a Women's Bible Class, of approximately fifty members each, largely the outgrowth of the original Adult Bible Class.

The third Department to be formed was the "Home Department," in 1896, with the "Cradle Roll" following the same year.

In 1921 a Kindergarten or "Beginners' Department" was started, with Miss Anna May Pfautz as its first Superintendent. Among those who followed her when she took up other work in the school, special mention should be made of Mrs. Melvin Hoover, on account of her faithful service, her wonderful knack with the little folks and her devotion to them, as well as their great love for her.

A Mothers' Class was organized in 1929, to furnish a school home for the mothers who often accompanied their little ones, and wished to stay nearby to comfort any baby frights or sorrows.

The full departmentalizing of the Sunday School took place in 1934, with the forming, in addition to those already named, of the Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Young People's and Adult Departments.

During the past year, the Senior and Young People's Departments have undergone some changes, the necessity for which was brought about by the disruption of normal activities due to, first the departure of so many of our young men and women (94) into the Armed Forces of our country, and now a desire to make adequate preparation for their return.

These changes consisted in the promotion of the entire Young People's Department into the Adult Department, to comprise a "Junior Adult Bible Class" which is a mixed class into which young married couples, and especially service men and their wives may come. This is in addition to "Mrs. Bricker's Class," an older mixed group; the "Barbara H. Snyder Class," an outgrowth of the original "Mothers' Class," and the "Men's" and "Women's Bible Classes already mentioned.

To complete this new arrangement, the entire "Senior Department" has been promoted into the "Young People's Department," in order to make one strong youth unit for the younger service men who come home on furlough or are discharged. This leaves the school temporarily without a "Senior Department," but seems to provide the best solution to the present problem.

WORKERS AND TEACHERS

While General and Department Superintendents play a prominent and often the most spectacular part in the running of a Sunday School, there are endless details to be performed, which require the assistance of many hands.

One of the first of the helpers in the history of the Sunday School was Francis W. Christ, who was also prominent for his labors in the Church, in John Beck's school, and in the Community. He is still remembered by a few of the older Lititz residents as a picturesque figure walking along the street wearing a shawl, a custom which had been discarded by most of his contemporaries; or they recall how he put off fireworks back of the Brethren's House on the third of July; or, in his capacity as Post Master, during the last fourteen years of his life, showed his practical love for children by seeing that each little one who called at the office received a valentine on St. Valentine's Day, whether one had been mailed to him or not. This kindly custom, by the way, was carried on by Miss Ella Buch, who was Post Office clerk for many years during and after his time.

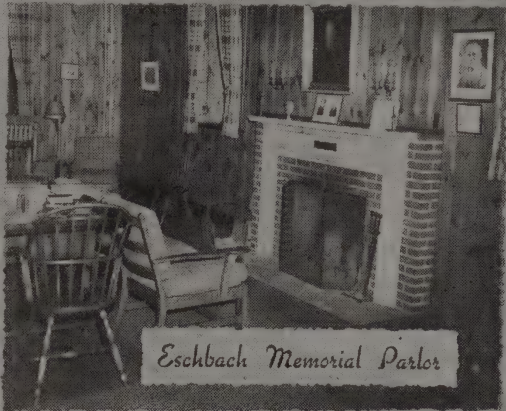
Mr. Christ was actively engaged in the Sunday School from 1855 until his death in 1883; first as its librarian, then as a teacher, and finally as Assistant Superintendent. One who knew him in this latest capacity says of him:



Nursery



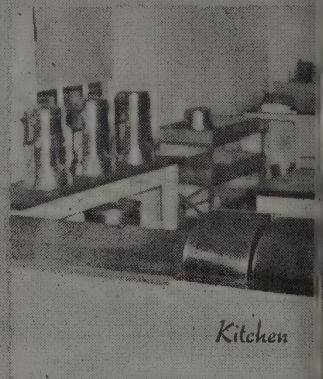
Fellow



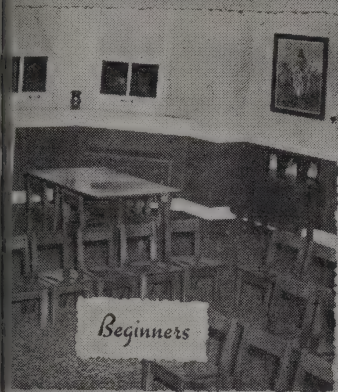
Eschbach Memorial Parlor



Primary



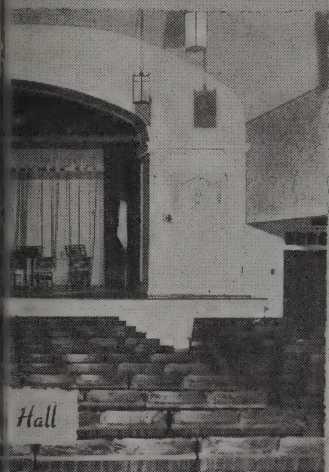
Kitchen



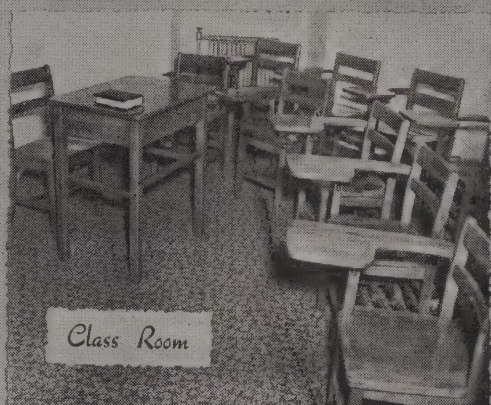
Beginners



Junior



Hall



Class Room



Intermediate

"We think of Brother Christ not as a great teacher or musician. His manner was rather austere, and the members of the school possibly never sensed how much he did for them. He seldom appeared on the platform. Occasionally he had a plan or other matter of business to present to the school, which he did in a few terse sentences; but he was the faithful operator behind the scenes, doing the many little things which do not seem to mean much, but which subtract immensely from the efficiency of the school, if neglected."

Mr. Christ was followed as Assistant Superintendent by Nathan C. Fry, who labored in the Sunday School for sixteen years; and then by John G. Zook, who for more than twenty years held that office.

John K. Carper served a long term of years as Secretary, and then was made Secretary Emeritus. Elmer Kautz was also Secretary for some years; and Robert H. Yerger held this office for a long time. Elmer Brennehan filled the office of Assistant Secretary for many years.

M. S. Hess, H. C. Seldomridge and Howard Young all served long terms as Treasurer of the School.

W. M. Grube, J. A. Miksch and Monroe Smith were librarians of the School Library; and Miss Louise Weitzel, followed by Miss Laura Buch (now Mrs. William Glenn) and Miss Lottie Duchman, had charge of the Teachers' and Bible Class Library, and then of the combined Teachers', Bible Class and School Library after the "Post Office" system was installed in 1904. Later Miss Anna Stark and Miss Mabel Leib took over this work, and served till the library was discontinued.

Miss Cecilia Enck was for some years a helper in the "Infant Class" and was the first Superintendent of the "Home Department," continuing for a long time in that capacity. Mrs. Wayne Longenecker and Mrs. Wilson Grube also acted as "Home Department" Superintendents.

One of the early organists, while the Sunday School sessions were still held in the Church building, was Miss Ella Bachman (Mrs. Lacy), who was also a teacher for ten years. At a later date Miss Eertha Enck (the late Mrs. William H. Zeller) served as organist for thirteen years. Miss Irene Light (Mrs. Samuel Locke), was pianist for many years; Miss Irene Kreiter (Mrs. Robert Grosh), Miss Miriam Hepp (Mrs. Frances Hagen), Mrs. Howard Young, Miss Mary Hagen (Mrs. Oscar Mills), Mrs. E. S. Grosland, Miss Viola Leib (Mrs. Kenneth Witmyer, and Miss Dorothy Miksch (Mrs. William Fasnacht), were later pianists who served for a considerable length of time.

Mrs. Zeller, in addition to being organist, was also "Cradle Roll" Superintendent for twenty years. Other Cradle Roll Superintendents were Mrs. L. K. Grosh and Mrs. J. L. Hertz.

Miss Grace Keller, while not an officer of the School as a whole, deserves mention, as she was Secretary of the Pastor's Bible Class from the time it first had regularly elected officers in 1909, until the class was divided in 1935; and continued as Secretary of the Ladies' Bible Class until her death in December, 1945.

Of all these, as well as of many others who served, and are now serving, in various capacities, the same might be said as of Francis Christ,—they were faithful behind the scenes; unobtrusive in their untiring labor for the good of the school, much of which passed unnoticed by the rank and file of the Sunday School members, but kept the wheels oiled and running smoothly.

Mention should also be made of some of the teachers who were outstanding in their length of service or in the character of their work. Among these were Adam B. Reidenbach and H. H. Tshudy, each of whom taught for twenty-five years; Ferdinand Rickert; Frank Hart; the Rev. Allen Hamilton and his wife; Miss Harriet Bruckhart; Mrs. S. C. E. Beckler (teacher for forty years, also Treasurer for a time); Miss Esther E. Wolle; Miss Martha J. Derr; Mrs. Emma Nethercott; Mr. and Mrs. C. William Grosh (The latter taught the "Young Ladies' Bible Class," and then the combined "Ladies' Bible Class" for at least twenty-five years.); M. S. Hess; Charles N. Derr; Horace Eshbach; and Frank Andrews. Many other faithful and capable teachers who are lovingly remembered by their pupils, might be mentioned, but space does not permit.*

ANNIVERSARIES With true Moravian love for commemorating special events, the first anniversary of the organizing of the Sunday School was celebrated on January 31, 1847, by a lovefeast for the children, at which pretzels and coffee was served. The practice of celebrating anniversaries was continued annually for some time. At first a public examination of the pupils was one of the features.

Special celebrations were held for the 25th anniversary in 1871; the 50th in 1896; and the 75th in 1921. The growth of the school during these years, and the steady improvement of its methods and facilities, have been noted.

The last twenty-five years have crowned the efforts of all who have labored, and are laboring today, in this branch of the Lord's vineyard, by accomplishing the complete organization of the School into departments and classes, to meet the needs of all, from the youngest to the oldest; and providing, through our modern Christian Education Building, the necessary room and equipment to carry on their

*Note.—In General, the writer has included the names of only those workers and teachers who are no longer connected with the activities of the school. There are many serving in various capacities today, whose work is left for future historians to record.

work according to the latest and most approved ideas in Sunday School work. The Centennial celebration marks the completion of the financing of this last and greatest building project, by the burning of the mortgage.

FINANCES At the first anniversary in 1847, a "Sunday School Society" was formed, which adopted a preamble and constitution, and appointed one of its number "to go round and get members." A month later there were eighty names on the list. The object of this society was to raise money to pay the expenses of running the Sunday School. Although "penny collections" in the school sessions were adopted in 1856, it was the policy of the school to use the children's money thus collected, to support mission causes, so as to teach them liberality.

It is interesting to note that one of the causes to which the Sunday School lent its support in the early days, was the aid of the sufferers in the great Chicago fire of 1871, when the sum of \$179.14 was brought in by an offering on a Sunday set apart for that purpose.

When at the close of 1878, the school found itself in debt for running expenses, it appealed to the Church trustees, and received a



The Rev. and Mrs. Rufus Bishop, Missionaries in Nicaragua, towards whose support the School contributed since 1913. Church and School together have paid their full salary since 1922.

grant of \$100. This was continued annually, whenever needed, until the late 1920's, when a special effort was made by the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Lloyd Smith, and the officers, to make the school self-supporting. This was accomplished without in any way reducing its contributions to missions and other charitable causes.

In 1913 the Sunday School began the partial support of the Rev. Rufus Bishop, a Moravian missionary in Nicaragua, through special contributions. This work was later taken up by the Church also, and since 1922 the Congregation and School together have undertaken Brother Bishop's entire support, and have been able to claim him as their "Missionary Pastor."

In addition to paying the salary of the Missionary Pastor, Congregation and School began working together in 1930 to raise a Building Fund to finance the vast building project already described, which was made a reality eleven years ago at a total cost of \$77,627.72. It was necessary to place a mortgage on the Church property to obtain the money at the time it was needed; but, by the untiring efforts of Sunday School classes, Church groups, and individuals, the entire amount, plus interest payments, has now been raised, over \$13,000 of which came from the School.

NON-MORAVIAN MEMBERS The Lititz Moravian Sunday School occupied a rather unique position in the community during a large part of the first half century of its existence, since the town was a closed Church Settlement at the time of the establishment of the School and for nine years thereafter.

With the abolition of the "lease system" in 1855, and the removal of all restrictions in regard to residence in Lititz by non-Moravians, members of other faiths soon moved into the town. It was twenty years after that, however, before any other Sunday School (the Evangelical) was opened in Lititz. Ten years more passed before a second (the Lutheran) was begun; with the other Sunday Schools now in the town following in the closing years of the past century and the beginning of the present.

Meanwhile, most of the children of the community, as well as of the surrounding country, Moravian and non-Moravian, attended our Sunday School. As a result, a number of the older members of some of the other denominations still count the Moravian as their first Sunday School home.

These, as well as all other former pupils who are now affiliated with other denominations, or living in other places, we are glad to welcome to our Centennial celebration. We also extend a hearty welcome to all who share with us our thankfulness for the blessings of God in the past, and our prayers for His continued guidance in the future.

THE FUTURE . . .

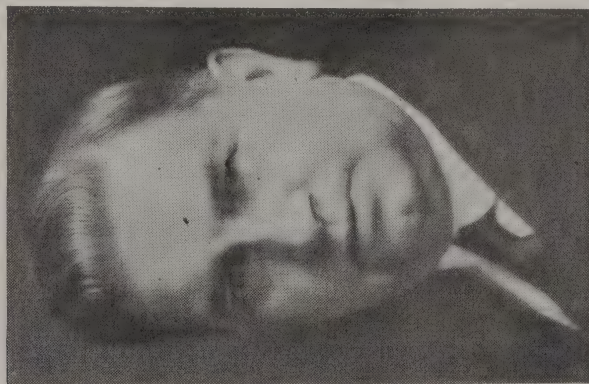
With a well-equipped, adequate building, clear of debt, we can look forward to a new century devoted to making the best use of these facilities, by intensive and redoubled efforts along spiritual lines.

We are happy to note the fine spirit of cooperation that exists today among the Sunday Schools of Lititz, and we pray, not only for the future of our school, but that all denominations may continue to work together for the betterment of the religious life of our community in the years that lie ahead.



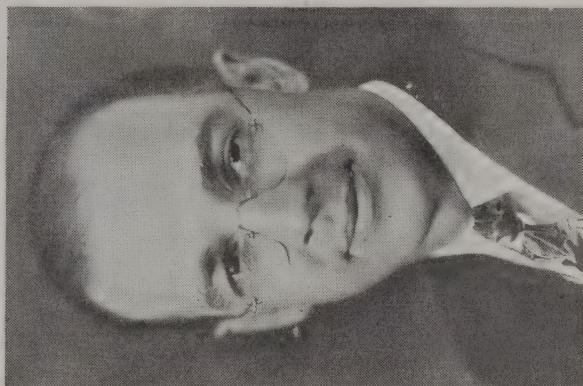
PASTORS SERVING THE CONGREGATION

during the planning, erection and financing of the Christian Education Building.



The Rt. Rev. E. S. Crosland
1916-1932

Securing of preliminary plans and estimates authorized, Church Council, June 24, 1929.
Building fund started, November 28, 1930 (First Deposit).



The Rev. Byron K. Horne
1932-1941

Decision made to build, and final plans adopted, Church Council, January 29, 1934.
Corner stone laid, August 19, 1934.
Building opened, March 31, 1935.



The Rev. Edwin W. Kortz
1942-

Building fund completed, February 8, 1946.
Mortgage burned and building dedicated, March 3, 1946.

PROGRAM
of
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
of the
MORAVIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL
of Lititz, Penna.

March 1st to 5th, 1946

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 — HOMECOMING

7:30 P.M.—Reception in Fellowship Hall.

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Joseph B. Baker, D.D.
Greetings from Visiting Superintendents.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 — CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

7:30 P.M. Dr. Paul H. Vieth, of the Yale Divinity School,
will speak on "Visual Education,"
in Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 — ANNIVERSARY DAY

9:15 A.M. Sunday School, in the Christian Education Building.
Visitors are invited to all classes and departments.

10:30 A.M. Anniversary Service, in the Church.
Dr. Vieth will preach on the subject,
"The Church School Faces the Future."

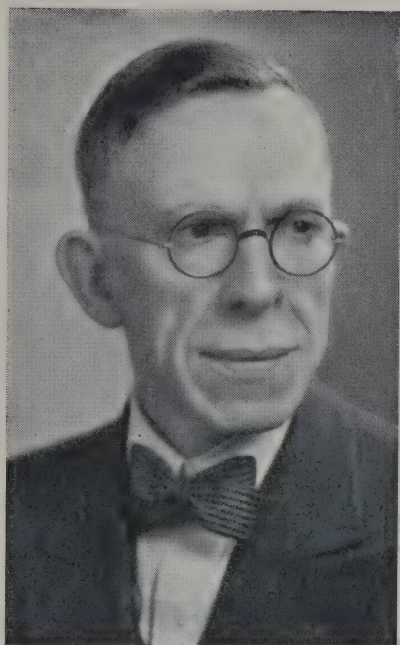
3:00 P.M. Lovefeast in Fellowship Hall.
Mortgage Burning and Dedication of the Building.

MONDAY, MAR. 4 — DRAMATICS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

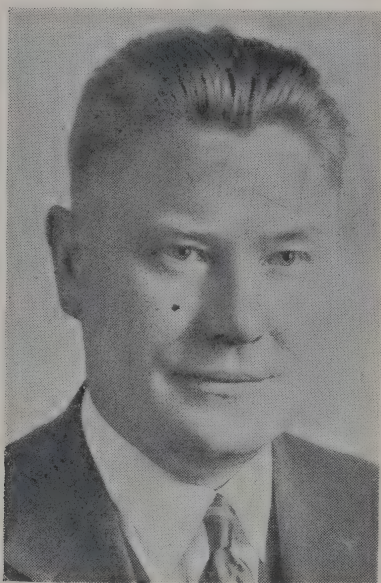
7:30 P.M. The Youth Fellowship will present the Play,
"The Christian Family Brown,"
in Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 — WINTER PICNIC

6:00 P.M. In the basement of the Christian Education Building.



The Rev. J. B. Baker, Pastor
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,
York, Pa. Guest Speaker Fri-
day, March 1.



Dr Paul H. Vieth
Yale Divinity School, New Hav-
en, Connecticut. Guest Speak-
er Saturday, March 2.

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Paul Bomberger	H. William Zeller
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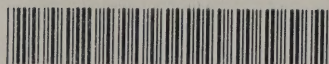
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